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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,084	04/02/2001	Ian Catley	112740-187	1678

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EXAMINER

UBILES, MARIE C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/825,084

Applicant(s)

CATLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Marie C. Ubiles

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: XXXX.

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The use of the trademark HICOM has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- 1) On page 2, line 16, a period was inserted between S1 and S2.
- 2) On page 4, line 21, the same element C2T1 was used on an alternative series.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. (4, 436, 962) in view of Brown et al. (5,309,028). Davis et al. discloses a call coverage method for use by a switching system or a call forwarding method comprising a plurality of first and secondary subscriber lines, wherein a call made to the first subscriber (element 901) is redirected and signaled to a secondary subscriber (element 902) for call answering, a call acceptance group to which are assigned both a single first subscriber line (element 901) and at least one secondary subscriber line (elements 902, 903 and 104) provided for call transfer originating from the first subscriber line, and a call made to the first subscriber line can be either forward and/or signaled to a secondary subscriber line within the call acceptance group (See Background of the invention, Column 1, lines 53-58; Claim 1, Claim 5, and Figure 9). Davis et al. also discloses that a call made to the first subscriber line is diverted to a second subscriber line on which corresponding user information was entered (See Claim 15) and that the method described above can be configured for use on multiple communication systems (See Background of the invention, Column 2, lines 45-50). Therefore, Davis et al. lacks the method by which the incoming call for the first subscriber line is switched to a second subscriber line for call answering and is signaled on at least one of the first subscriber line and at least one further second subscriber line.

Brown et al. teaches that "A principal can have all of his calls covered by his personal secretary [...] backup secretaries would only answer after sufficient time that

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the personal secretary is unlikely to answer. The calls are offered to both the covered and covering terminal at the same time.” (See Background of the invention, Column 2, lines 33-39). Brown et al. further teaches that “Three principals [Bob, Steve and Dick] each have a personal secretary. Each secretary Ann, Bev, and Joy has three monitor feature buttons and three monitor lamps to indicate the collective status of the call appearances on [each executive] terminal.” (See Detailed description, Column 5, lines 25-35 and Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Davis’ call forwarding method by adding the method by which the incoming call for the first subscriber line (Fig 1, element 500) is switched to a second subscriber line (Fig 1, element 200) for call answering and is signaled on at least one of the first subscriber line and at least one further second subscriber line (Fig 1, elements 300 and 400), as per the teachings of Brown et al., so that the secretaries on secondary subscriber lines will be able to monitor and answer calls for more than one executive first subscriber lines on different call acceptance groups.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marie C. Ubiles whose telephone number is (703) 305-0684. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5pm.

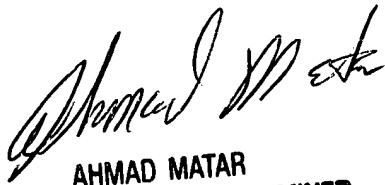
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7201 for regular communications and (703) 305-7201 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Marie C. Ubiles
August 8, 2003



AHMAD MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600